

INTRODUCTION OF VISIT USA  
LEGISLATION**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 25, 1998*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, as a cochair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, I am honored today to introduce the "Value in Supporting International Tourism in the United States Act of 1998" or the "Visit USA Act". My caucus cochair, Rep. MARK FOLEY of Florida, joins me in dropping this important bill.

Why do we need an NTO?

The reason is simple—it makes good economic sense. The travel and tourism industry is one of the Nation's largest employers, providing 16.2 million jobs. It directly employ 7 million people, and indirectly employs an additional 9.2 million Americans. 92 percent of the tourism industry is composed of small- and medium-sized businesses throughout every region of the country.

The industry ranks as the first, second, or third largest employer in 32 States and the District of Columbia, generating a total tourism-related annual payroll of \$127.9 billion.

In my district on the central coast of California, it is the second largest industry, bringing in more than \$2 billion and directly employing close to 26,000 residents.

The industry has become the Nation's third-largest retail sales industry, generating a total of \$489 billion in total expenditures. The industry generated \$71.7 billion in tax revenues for federal, state, and local governments.

While the private sector, States, and localities currently spend more than \$1 billion annually to promote particular destinations within the United States to international visitors, the Federal Government spends zero dollars—zero dollars—promoting the United States as a tourist destination.

In 1997, more than 54 million foreign visitors spent \$98 billion in the United States. Imagine the benefits to our Nation's economy if we were to actively seek foreign visitors.

In 1997, 17.9 million more people visited France than the United States. Yes, 17.9 million more people chose to visit France over the United States. One hundred nations around the world spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually to promote international tourism in their countries. And each year the United States loses more of its market share to nations actively promoting tourism. By dropping this bill, we hope to change this trend.

The Visit USA Act will establish an Intergovernmental Task Force for International Visitor Assistance. The task force will examine signage and make suggestions where necessary to facilitate international visitors' travel in the United States. The task force will address the availability of multilingual travel and tourism information and the means of disseminating such information.

The task force will also examine the feasibility of establishing a toll-free, private-sector operated, telephone number, staffed by multilingual operators, to provide emergency assistance to international tourists.

Additionally, this legislation instructs the Secretary of Commerce to complete, as soon as may be practicable, a satellite system of accounting for the travel and tourism industry.

The satellite system of accounting would provide Congress and the President with objective, thorough data that would help policymakers more accurately gauge the size and scope of the domestic travel and tourism industry and its significant impact on the health of the Nation's economy.

Let me assure my colleagues who were skeptical of the NTO that this bill is not business as usual. The Visit USA Act requires the travel and tourism industry to match every public dollar spent on marketing the United States with private funds and requires the industry to pay the administrative expenses of the NTO.

I encourage my colleagues to review this bill, think about the impact of the tourism industry in their district, and become a cosponsor of the Visit USA Act.

## THE WORLD IS WATCHING

**HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 25, 1998*

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, the world watches while China begins her long march toward superpower status. Regrettably, the view is exceedingly grim for those concerned with the continued abuse of their citizen's most basic human rights.

The current American administration has promised progress in China in return for more open markets. Of course we recognize that this administration, like so many others, is blinded by the vision of China as the next great export market. Further enticing the President is the realization that cheap Chinese imports fuel America's economy by driving inflation down. The sad truth that underlies this economic phenomenon is that Chinese slave labor is the economic engine that drives America's inflation downward.

Will America conclude that such an economic truth is acceptable, or will it conclude instead that cheap goods paid with human blood is far too expensive for our taste. As America decides, the beast slouches toward Bethlehem.

This past week, United Nations Commissioner Mary Robinson visited Communist China. The Washington Post reported that while entering her hotel, the wife of a jailed Chinese political leader was hauled off by Chinese security agents.

During Ms. Robinson's visit, a veteran Chinese democratic activist was arrested for attempting to register a free party in China. In Shanghai, Yao Zhenxian was also arrested for discussing the formation of a party.

A journalist was dragged from his home on September 5 for editing a group of essays on political reform written by government scholars and journalists, according to the Washington Post. Shi Binhai was arrested for nothing more than being a journalist reporting on his country's future.

America remains silent.

In his book on Robert F. Kennedy, Maxwell Kennedy introduces his work with a quote from his father's daybook. In that collection of quotes, Bobby Kennedy scribbled the following words: "No one can usurp the height but those to whom the miseries of the world are a misery and will not let them rest."

In plain view of the butchering of Buddhist culture in Tibet, we quietly slumber. In clear view of Christian persecution in communist China, America sleeps peacefully. In plain view of the entire world, America slouches towards an economically rewarding relationship with China that, unchecked by Western values given to us first in ancient Greece, could rot our nation's soul.

The whole world is watching. Chicago, 1968. . . . Washington, 1998.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE VIC  
FAZIO

SPEECH OF

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 24, 1998*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to the fine gentleman from California, Mr. VIC FAZIO. We have been extremely blessed to have such a hard-working, fair leader in the Democratic Caucus and the House of Representatives. He has always tried to assist all Members, no matter what side of the aisle they are on. VIC FAZIO has consistently possessed a keen understanding of what it truly means to be a public servant. Through his dedication to listening to the needs of the American people and unfaltering leadership, VIC FAZIO has served as a strong role model for all current and future Members of the House of Representatives.

Vic, I congratulate you on your retirement, and thank you for setting such a high standard of excellence and integrity.

MODERATE POLITICAL LEADERS  
IN BOSNIA DESERVE SUPPORT**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 25, 1998*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, while the results of the recent elections in Bosnia have been mixed, with the U.S. backed candidate for President of the Republic of Srpska—the Serb controlled part of Bosnia—defeated by a hardline ultranationalist, it is important for us to continue to support moderate political leaders in Srpska and throughout Bosnia Herzegovina. Although the ultranationalists have won the Presidency in Srpska, moderate political parties appear to still retain a plurality of seats in the Srpska parliament, and current Prime Minister Dodik, who has been a staunch supporter of political reform and the Dayton Peace Agreement, could still form a government.

For those who may not know him, Prime Minister Dodik is a courageous individual who has attempted to lead Bosnian Serbs away from the strident nationalism that caused the conflict in the former Yugoslavia toward political reform, ethnic reconciliation, and economic empowerment. During the war in Bosnia, Dodik, at some personal risk, spoke out against Serb persecution of Muslims and Croats. Since becoming Prime Minister in January 1998, Dodik has moved swiftly to implement political and economic reforms that enabled the Bosnian Serbs in many parts of